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The Famous

HISTORY OF VALENTINE AND ORSON.

BEING

The two only Sons of the Emperour of *GREECE.*

Deciphering their wonderful Births, their Valiant Atchievements, their Heroical Minds, and their Noble Enterprises.

Drawn up in a short Volume, on purpose to give the better satisfaction to them that desire to hear and know the truth in few words.

Written by *LAURENCE PRICE.*

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Hardly the like in all the World again.

LONDON,
Printed for *William Whitwood*, at the sign of the Bell in Duck Lane. 1673.

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The Famous HISTORY OF *Valentine* and *Orson*.

Chap. I.

How the Lady Bellisant, sister to King Pepin, was solemnly married to the Emperour of Greece, and how they departed towards Constantinople.

HEre Lived a worthy and renowned King in the famous Kingdom of *France*, called King *Pepin*, who had one only sister, whose name was fair *Bellisant*; this beautiful Lady was no less vertuous than comely, so

no less wise than prudent, than both. She was dearly beloved of all sorts of people: the Courtiers loved her for her Clemency, the Gentry loved her for her fidelity, the Commons loved her for her sweet behaviour, and the poor loved her for her Charity.

The fame of this gallant Lady resounded not only through the Principal Povinces of *France*, but through all the whole world; from one end to the other; so that to this Lady came many a Princely Potentate, hoping to gain her good will in Marriage. Amongst the rest of her noble and renowned Suppliants, came the high and mighty Emperour of *Greece*, who after many dates spent in the Court of *France*, atchieved the beauteous Ladies love; and with the consent of her Brother and all the Nobility, he took her to wife; where a long and spacious time was spent in feasting and merriment, to solemnize the Royal and Nuptial bonds of Matrimony, which were made between the Emperour and fair *Belisant*, Sister to the King of *France*.

But now behold what came to pass on the sudden? There came a Post sent from *Constantinople*, to certifie the Emperour, that there was like to be a great insurrection and

combustion in many of his Provinces, except his Highness would be pleased to make a speedy return to his own Country, thereby to pacifie the outrages of the people, and renew a settled peace.

The Emperour and his friends having taken the matter into their consideration, how that Divisions might be a meane to raise mutenies, and mutenies to raise seditions, and seditions to raise civil wars, and that civil wars might bring ruine and destruction, both on himself and all his adherents for ever: Therefore he rather chusing to forsake his pleasures in *France*, than to endanger the ruine of his own Kingdom, took leave of his Brother the King of *France*, and the rest of the Princes and Nobles of his Court; he prepared himself with his fair Bride, for their journey unto their Court at *Constantinople*.

Their departure caused great heavinesse at the Court, insomuch that there was never more sorrowful hearts, grieved minds, and weeping eyes than at that time, for the departure of that modest and well governed Lady, who with her Lord in short space arrived at their desired Haven.

Chap. II.

Of the treachery Practiſed by the Arch-Priſt of Conſtantinople, againſt the fair Empreſs Bellifant.

NO ſooner was the Emperour, and his fair Empreſs arrived at the Port of *Conſtantinople*, but they were entertained with as much joy and Solemnity, as if the Gods themſelves had deſcended from *Olympus*, to give welcome for thoſe long lookt for Guests: and for a congratulation they prepared all manner of dainty fare, all manner of rare Muſick, and all ſorts of rich Ornaments fit for their wearing.

Many Kings, Princes, Lords, and Ladies came from other Countries, and preſented many Rich and coſtly Gifts to the royal and beautiful Empreſs, the Lady *Bellifant*; and happy were they that could have ſo much Favour, as to kiſs her Princely hand.

But as *Morpheus* and *Venus* diſtracteth and troubleth Love-ſick perſons, whether they ſleep or wake, ſo doth Fortune and envy act their parts of cruelty and tyranny

 amongſt

amongſt the chief Monarchs and Princes, as may appear by thoſe Golden Pair of Turtles, the Emperour and his loving Mate. In that Court of great Magnificence there lived a ſuppoſed Religious man, whoſe title was Arch-Prieſt, or Arch-Biſhop: but he proved himſelf to be an Arch-Traitor, as you ſhall preſently hear.

This Arch-Prieſt was a great Favourite to the Emperour, and ſo well thought of in the Emperours Court among the Nobility, that whatſoever he ſaid was a Law: For if there was any one had any buſineſs with the Emperour, they could not get admittance without the Arch-Prieſts conſent: Which the Empreſs *Beliſant* perceiving, thinking him to be a juſt and upright man, afforded him the like reſpect as others did, and oftentimes in ſecret would reveal her mind unto him.

Upon a time it came to paſs, they being all alone together, he being filled with luſt and carnal deſire, burſt forth in theſe words unto her.

Moſt beauteous, fair and comely Lady, I your humble and devoted Servant, with all the reſpects belonging to ſuch a noble perſonage as you are, deſire the grant of one boon

unto, which if you perform, I am a living man, if you deny, you are a dead woman.

The Lady hearing him say so, answered him in this manner;

Sir, I am as yet but a stranger in this Empire, but yet will I afford you any thing that is mine to give, so far forth as reason doth require, and that my Princely Husband gives way to.

Then Madam, quoth he, this it is, I desire your love, insomuch that I may embrace the sweet and pleasant enjoyments of your love, and to do with you according to my will.

When the Lady heard him talk, and finding him to be lustful minded, she spake unto him in this manner.

O thou dissembling hypocrite, thou false and faithless tyrant, thou blood sucking traytor, thou perjured villain, how canst thou for shame ask such a question of me? Didst thou not once swear to be true to thy Lord and Master, and wilt thou now go about to ravish his espoused Wife? Depart from me, and for the fault thou wouldest have committed ask God forgiveness, and keep thine own counsel, and I will no fur-

ther speak of it. When the wicked wretch had received his denial, he presently departed the Room, vowing to be avenged of the Lady: and so having laid a platform of mischief in readiness to work his design, went to the Emperour, and spake unto him in this sort.

O my Noble Lord and Master I that have been all times well known to your self your true and faithful servant, and beloved of all men for my loyalty to your Highness, I am now with grief of heart enforced to reveal a secret unto you, which is of great concernment: and this it is,

The Lady *Belisens* your wife, which you thought to be so vertuous, chast, and honest, is known and found to be otherwise; For why, she hath conspired your Death, acted Treason against your person, and the Child which is now in her Womb is of another mans begetting: and therefore Noble Sir, I think there is no better course to be taken, than to send her away to *France*, from whence she came, and that suddenly and privily, that the world may not take notice of what is done.

When the Emperour had heard this strange Relation from the false dissembling Arch-

Arch-traitor, his wrath was so much inflamed, that he had neither the Patience nor power to forbear, but presently ran into the Room where his harmless Lady was sitting all alone in her solitary dumps: So taking his advantage, ran streightwaies unto her, and taking hold of her hair, pulled her to the ground, beat her on the face with his Fists, and stampt upon her with his feet, insomuch that the blood issued out from her Nose and mouth so violently, that the like was hardly ever seen.

But at last, when he had tired himself with abusing this Lady, he stood panting for breath, thinking to have gone to her again.

Mean while she was recovered upon her knees, and as she was kneeling, she spake to him saying,

O my dear Lord, what is the reason that without cause you deal thus cruelly with me? I desire you, my good Lord, to spare me my life; if not for my own sake, yet let it be done for the Infants sake which is yet unborn.

Well quoth the Emperour, I will spare thee thy Life, but this shall be thy doom, that thou shalt for ever be banished from my presence,

...ce; and be sent to thy brother in *France*; ...th a writing upon thy breſt, for all that ...k on thee to read, how that for thy diſloy... to thy Husband, for thy Treacherous ...on deviſed, and for the acting the part ... a Strumpet, thou art baniſhed the Royal Court of *Conſtantinople*; and therefore pre... thy ſelf to night to be gone to morrow, for here is no longer time for you to abide.

Chap.

Chap. III.

How the Empress Bellisant, *being banished by the Emperour, travelled into* France, *and the strange births of* Valentine *and* Orson.

NOW when morning was come, the distressed Lady *Bellisant* was set on horseback, according to the Emperours command, having no other company to go along with her, but one man which was her servant, and came out of *France* with her. Now mark what happened to them in their journey: for the Proverb saith that one Swallow doth not make a Summer, neither doth one misery go by it self.

As they were passing through a huge and spacious Forrest, the Lady found her self grievously distressed: and being great with Child, alighted from her horse, and sent her servant to seek some woman to help her in her extremity, she sitting the whilest under the boughs of a tree. The Gentleman with diligence made all the haste he could possibly do, but before he returned back again the Lady was delivered of two Sons, of which an ugly she-Bear coming along, caught

nt one of them up, and ran away with carrying him to her Den, to be a prey her young ones. The Lady pursued the to recover her son, but in vain, the being also so weak, that she could not return the place where she had left her other Son. the mean time, the King having that day en on hunting, chanc'd to find him, taking up and putting him to nurse, calling his ame *Valentine*; Of whom you shall hear ore hereafter, in the subsequent discourse of his History.

The Bear (as by providence it came to ass) never devoured the child that she carried to her Den, nor had her whelps any power at all to do it any harm, so that as the Bears young ones did suck her, she gave suck to the child also, till such time that he became able to shift for himself. And when he came to be of the age of a man, he had humane sence like a man, but had not the speech nor use of any language at all, and was all overgrown with hair like unto a Bear, because he had suckt of the Bears milk, he was also as wild as any savage beast that was in the Forrest, and did so many strange exploits, destroying of men and women, that none durst come near the place where he was.

The

The other brother was brought up in the Court of *France*, by the means of King Pepin, which was his own Uncle, although unknown to them both; and they called his name *Valentine*, and the wilde mans name they called *Orson*.

Chap-

Chap. IV.

How Valentine conquered Oliver, and brought him to the Royal Court of his Uncle King Pepin.

THis *Valentine* was of such a Noble and heroick courage, and gallant behaviour, that he was known to be the chiefest and ablest man at Arms that was in all the noted Court of *France*, and would encounter any man that came to oppose him.

This *Valentine* hearing the strange reports of *Orson*, how he overcame and conquered all that ever came near him, resolved on a time to try his valour, courage and magnanimity, and adventure his life with the wild man *Orson*, not thinking he had been his brother.

And thus being courageously mounted on horseback, (rich and gallantly clad in Armour bright, with a most excellent sword by his side) he rode to the spacious Forest, to find out the wild man, which he quickly did; and upon his near and sudden approach, he found him prepared for the Combate, and ready to encounter him; for indeed *Orson* ne-

ver went unprovided of his great Weapon, which was a mighty Club, made of an Oaken tree: with which at the first salute he gave *Valentines* Horse such a bang on the Nose, that he beat out his brains: and then was *Valentine* bound to fight for his life, for to fly it was in vain.

Thus was the Combate with great courage renewed, and *Valentine* with his sword and *Orson* with his Club fought a long time, and drew much blood of one another. But at the last *Valentine* through skill and policy vanquished *Orson*, who was far more stronger than himself: and having obtained an absolute conquest, immediately after brought him bound to the King of *France*, where many strange and wonderful atchivements were performed by those two Noble brothers.

Chap. V.

Chap. IV.

How Valentine and Orson went to assist the Duke of Aquitain: where Orson encountered the Green Knight.

Valentine and *Orson* remaining in the Court with the King, arrived a messenger from the Duke of *Aquitain*, who being admitted into the Kings presence, said as followeth: Most Mighty King, my Master the Duke of *Aquitain*, intreateth your Majesty to commiserate the sad condition of him and his country being invaded by a Pagan, called the Green Knight, upon no other cause but to take away his only daughter, the fair Lady Lezon, which he hath sworn to effect, unless by some worthy Christian Knight he be vanquished within forty daies: many have already adventured against him, all which he hath overcome, and hanged upon Trees. My master therefore humbly craves your Majesties assistance in this extremity. The King hearing this, promised him aid, and the messenger departed.

The next day the King, with many hardy Knights amongst whom was *Valentine*, who

also caused *Orson* to go with him, being naked, except an iron Jacket, which *Valentine* had caused to be made for him, set forward towards *Aquitain*, where the Duke entertained them as befitted such Royal personages, declaring all the deeds which the Green Knight had done, and the conquests he had made.

Valentine hearing this, determined to try the might of this Champion: So arming himself, he rode to his Tent. The Green Knight seeing him, presently mounted his steed, and between them began a most cruel Combate, both giving and receiving many wounds: at length the Green Knight said, Knight, thy valour causeth me to pity thee, therefore I advise thee to give over: For none can overcome me but the son of a King who never sucked the breast of a Woman, now if thou art such a one, thou maist overcome me, if not, thy fighting is vain. Notwithstanding *Valentine* continued the fight 'till night parted them, and both betook themselves to rest.

Valentine considering the Green Knights words, and that himself had sucked the breasts of a woman, determined to send *Orson* to try his fortune with the Green Knight: So the

next day *Valentine* put his armour upon *Orson*, who being mounted, rod to the Green Knight, between whom began a most fierce combate, *Orson* giving him many wounds, which he immediately healed with Balsome that he had about him for that purpose.

Orson seeing this, thought it in vain to use his sword any longer, till he could heal himself so quickly; and casting it away, he betook himself to his Nails, wherewith he so rent his armour, and wounded his flesh, that he was constrained to fall, and submit himself to the mercy of the conquerour. The King, *Valentine*, and the Duke being joyful of this victory, went to the Green Knight, who immediately relinquished all his former pretensions, consenting to become a Christian, and be baptized. So after some few dates spent in mirth and triumph, the King, *Valentine* and all the Noble Peers of *France*, solemnly took their leaves of the Duke, and his fair Daughter the Lady *Fezon*, and returned again to the Court.

Chap. VI.

Chap. VI.

How the Treason of the Arch-Priest was discovered, and how the Emperour restored the Lady Bellisant *from banishment.*

HAving thus presented you with the disloyal proceedings of the Arch-traytor, I shall now return to speak of what became of him, who so perfidiously sowed the seed of sedition between the Emperour and the Lady *Bellisant*.

The Arch-Priest persisting still in this wicked quality, alwaies acting and plotting Treason against one or other, he thought at last to have been made Emperour himself; But it came to pass, that by a miraculous means his treachery was found out, and he arraigned for treason, who having the sentence of Death pronounced against him, confessed, That he had been a most horrible forsworn and perjured Villain, and that he had been a means to divide the Emperour from his gracious and faithful Lady, and how that all the things that were laid to her charge were false.

This and many other of his faults he openly

openly confeſſed before the Emperour and the reſt of his Noble Lords: but as the *Old Proverb* ſaith, *For his open Confeſſion he had open Puniſhment*: being adjudged for to ride upon a bare ridg'd Horſe, with his face towards the Horſe tail, then to be ſet three daies with his *Ears faſt nailed to the Pillory and then his body to be taken and thrown into a Cauldron of boyling Lead*, which was a juſt reward for a forſworn Traytor. And afterwards the Emperour ſent for his Queen and ſettled her in her Royal Throne of dignity again, where they lived many happy years in joy and tranquility. And as for their two valiant Sons, *Valentine* and *Orſon*, they became the braveſt men at Arms that ever *Chriſtendom* afforded: They conquered Gyants, ſubdued Sarazens, overcame Cities, deſtroyed Caſtles, and fought many famous and renowned battels againſt the Enemies of *Chriſtendom*, inſomuch that the whole world admired at their couragious enterpriſes and fortunate ſucceſs.

FINIS.